

# THE CINCINNATI LITERARY GAZETTE.

NOT TO DISPLAY LEARNING, BUT TO EXCITE A TASTE FOR IT.

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## NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

*Lecture on Symmes' theory of Concentric Spheres, read at the Western Museum.*  
By T. J. MATTHEWS.

THERE is probably no propensity of the human mind more constantly operative, than the love of theorizing. The annals of Philosophy furnish us in this respect, an useful lesson in the evidence which they afford of the facility with which the human imagination is able to triumph over the sober principles of reason, and to lead the judgment blindfold into the most monstrous absurdities. If we consult the oracles of antiquity, those precious monuments of the intellectual acumen of our ancestors which remain to us, precious, many of them, only as proofs of the readiness with which the most sublime intelligences can waste their strength in idle and unprofitable labours; we shall be astonished at the number of systems that have been spun like cobwebs from the nimble hand of fancy, and then been swept away, to make room for others equally absurd. In metaphysics, the doctrines of substantial forms, of innate ideas, and a thousand other vagaries, succeeding each other in quick succession, have all of them finally given place to the theory of perception by the senses. In Astronomy, the chrySTALLINE SPHERES of Ptolemy have melted into the surrounding ether before the rising sun of science; the vortices of Descartes which succeeded them, have also passed away like a shadow, until finally Newton gave us the doctrine of universal gravitation, which like the oak that towers on the mountain precipice, takes deeper root and spreads a wider umbrage, the more it is shaken by the storms of contending opinions. Pythagoras considered the earth as a plane. Ptolemy, and after him, Tycho, placed it in the centre of the universe. Copernicus restored the Pythagorean arrangement which prevails at the present day. Most philosophers have considered the earth as a round ball; a certain Pope declared it to be a flat surface; and finally it has been represented as being composed of a number of hollow concentric spheres.

The proneness which mankind have, to be misled in theorizing, probably arises from the circumstance that they mostly attempt

prematurely to elaborate their facts into a system. An accidental circumstance frequently suggests an hypothesis; this by frequent recurrence, soon becomes the darling subject of our meditations; we first view it as possible, then as probable, and finally as certain. This conclusion is commonly arrived at, before our observation has accumulated a sufficient number of facts to enable the judgment to correct the labours of imagination, and once formed, observation becomes the mere pinion of fancy; collecting a heap of learned rubbish for no other purpose but to be shaped into any form, that may best fill up the openings in her airy fabric, and present a smooth and unbroken surface to the eye. The uncertainty of theories is so great, that the wise and thinking part of mankind have been always tardy and cautious in adopting them. It is only after long examination; after accumulated and widely extended proofs of their accordance with the simple and well known laws of nature, and after sufficient evidence of their capability of accounting for all the principal phenomena of that department of science which they are designed to generalize, that they are received and acknowledged by the learned. But if, in the progress of investigation, it be discovered, that so far from according with nature, it is necessary to distort her features and disavow her most obvious and constant principles of action, in order to reconcile her with a given hypothesis: we are irresistably impelled to abide by nature, whom we know to be unchangeable, and to discredit the hypothesis which springing from a fallible source, is so likely to participate the imperfection of the cause which produced it.

The foregoing observations were elicited while reflecting on the nature of that hypothesis denominated "The theory of concentric spheres," which Mr. John Cleves Symmes has been endeavoring for six years past to persuade the world to adopt. That it is one which deserves to be classed with those last spoken of I am fully persuaded, and that, however sincere may be his convictions of its truth, it will nevertheless be found unable to stand the test of a full examination.

In attempting this examination, I shall assume no new principles on which to found my arguments; I repose on a few simple da-

ta, long since established on the strictest demonstration by the venerable Newton, and received by all the learned from his, to the present day: I do not intend however, to bear down the hypothesis by the weight of authority—on the contrary, I shall endeavour to demonstrate whatever I consider as principles. Yet I cannot forbear remarking that those who are the best acquainted with the character of that great philosopher and with that of his immortal works, have always considered every attempt to tear his well earned honours from his brow and to scatter his labours to the winds, as an action approaching in its character of sacrilege to that which once stretched forth an impious hand to arrest the ark of the covenant, the sacred repository of the oracles of heaven.

Before proceeding to an examination of Mr. Symmes' hypothesis, it may be proper to explain its leading features. These I believe are as follow:—He maintains that the globe which we inhabit, is composed of a number of hollow spheres, having spaces between them occupied by atmospheres; that these shells are widely open at both poles; the northern opening of the outer shell being about 4000 miles diameter; the southern about 6000 miles; that the planes of these openings are inclined to that of the ecliptic at an angle of 12° or 15°; that the axis of the earth being perpendicular to the equator, causes the two poles to approach the upper side of the verges of these openings; that the meridians or lines of longitude wind along the edges of either verge, and meet at the highest point of the ridge which he denominates the 90th degree or pole, and finally that the concave surface of the outer shell, and probably of them all, is inhabited by various kinds of inferior animals, and by intelligent beings resembling ourselves.

The proofs which Mr. Symmes adduces in support of this hypothesis are derived from various sources; some of the most plausible, are those which he attempts to derive from the telescopic appearances of some of the celestial bodies. I shall therefore, commence with these, more especially as he has made the assertion, that if every other proof should fail, the analogies afforded by the heavens would be sufficient to establish his opinions.

The first which he offers is the appearance of Saturn, which exhibits through a telescope, two luminous rings concentric with each other and with the body of the planet; these Mr. Symmes asserts, can be nothing but concentric spheres, and the dark space between the inner ring and the planet, is the interior or hollow part of the shell, which is dark in consequence of not reflecting the sun's light.

Now the distances from that planet's centre to both the inner and the outer edge of the exterior ring have been frequently measured, and are found to be respectively 95000 and 102500 miles in round numbers; the difference of those distances is the versed sine of the angle subtended at the planet's centre by one half the thickness of the edge of the ring, on the supposition of its being a portion of a spherical shell; we have therefore a ready method of ascertaining that thickness, by reference to a table of versed sines and a simple calculation. The same conclusion is also derived from a calculation founded on the principles of trigonometry, for the above mentioned distances are the hypotenuse and base of a right angled triangle, whose perpendicular side is one half the thickness of the ring's edge, which is found to be no less than 77000 miles. But this edge is actually so thin as to be invisible when presented directly towards the eye, through any telescope except the powerful reflector of Herschell, who alone has succeeded in measuring its thickness, and who states it to be 4500 miles only. In fact, supposing its actual thickness were not known; if it were such as it would be on Mr. Symmes' hypothesis, it would almost entirely hide the body of the planet from our sight, when its plane should pass through the eye, and present even to the unassisted vision an appearance of greater magnitude and brilliancy than either Jupiter or Venus; through a telescope it would have the form of a parallelogram.

A more plausible argument in favour of the hypothesis, might be derived from the singular form of the planet itself, which bears some similitude to a parallelogram rounded off at the corners, or to a thick short hogshead, this appearance evidently arises from the flatness of the planet at the poles in consequence of its quick rotation, and the powerful action of the ring on the equatorial parts. It cannot proceed from a polar opening, because the planet's axis is so much inclined to the ecliptic as to bring his polar regions completely into view once in every revolution, which if open, would appear dark, as does the space between the planet and the ring.

The next analogy adduced by Mr. Symmes, is the belts of Jupiter, which he supposes to be the shadows cast by the edge of each polar opening of a shell upon the surface of the next interior shell. By re-

ference to Brewster's edition of Ferguson's Astronomy, it appears that "these belts are variable both in number, distance, and position. Sometimes 7 or 8 have been observed, and at one time, Dr. Herschell observed his whole disk covered with small curved lines that were not continuous across his disk. The parallel belts however, are the most common, and they are also variable, sometimes interrupted in their length, at others appearing to increase and diminish alternately, to run into one another, or to separate into others of a smaller size."

M. Schroeter also observed these belts with an excellent telescope during 1785, 1786, and 1787. In the last mentioned year, he observed two dark belts in the middle of Jupiter's disk, and near to them two white and luminous belts. The northern dark belt received a sudden increase of size, while the southern became partly extinguished and afterwards increased into an uninterrupted belt. The luminous belts also suffered several changes, growing sometimes one half larger than their original size. How is it possible, let me ask, for those continual changes in the appearance of Jupiter's belts to be accounted for on the supposition of their being shadows, cast by the edges of shells composed of solid matter and therefore permanent in their form. If these edges were irregular, they would undoubtedly cast irregular shadows, but these irregularities would be periodical, and the same appearances would return in every rotation of the planet on its axis, which however, is not observed to be the fact. Besides, if this hypothesis be correct, the circumference of Jupiter's disk would present a ragged and broken appearance, where intercepted by the belts, in consequence of the inner shells being portions of smaller spherical surfaces than the outer, and therefore subtending smaller chords at equal distances from the centre of the disk.

The next analogy attempted to be established is from the appearance of the poles of Mars, one of which says Mr. Symmes, exhibits 4 dark and 4 light circles surrounding it, which proves that he consists of 4 concentric shells. Where he obtained his information respecting these appearances, I am unable to say, they are not however, mentioned in any author I have consulted on the subject. The phenomenon which I imagine Mr. Symmes has mistaken for belts is the luminous zone surrounding each pole of the planet, and which has been often noticed by Astronomers, particularly by Miraldi and Herschell, the latter of whom continued his observations of them during six successive years, from 1777 to 1783. All these observations concur in proving, that the spots or zones are continually varying in magnitude, from which circumstance and from their bright appearance, Dr. Herschell has drawn the conclusion that they are pro-

duced by the reflection of the sun's light from the frozen regions surrounding the poles of the planet, and that the melting of these masses of polar ice, is the cause of the variation in the magnitude of the spots. Hence in 1781, when the Antarctic Glaciers had not melted for twelve months, the thawing influence of the sun, the south polar spot was extremely large, and in 1783, it had suffered a considerable diminution from an exposure of eight months to the solar rays.

The fourth and last of these analogies is the appearance of the southern horn of Venus. This was observed by M. Schroeter to be much blunted, with an enlightened spot separate from the body of the planet. This appearance continued for a month from the 11th of December 1789, to January 1790. The phenomenon evidently arises from the irregularity of the planet's surface, the dark space between the blunted horn and the separate spot being probably an extensive valley to which the sun's rays are prevented from penetrating by the surrounding eminences. Thus the whole inner edge of the planet exhibits an irregular or jagged appearance which is also very perceptible on the inner edge of the moon during her first and last quarters. In her I have frequently observed detached luminous spots, sometimes in one place, sometimes in another along the whole interior edge of the planet; these are evidently occasioned by her mountains catching the rays of the sun before they can reach the valleys between them and the illuminated part of the disk. There appears as much reason to suppose these the verges of polar or other openings into the body of the moon as to consider the appearance at the southern horn of Venus, the effect of a similar cause; yet I have not understood that Mr. Symmes pretends to assert this. It may be further observed, that if the appearance of Venus' horn were produced by a polar opening, this would be entirely too small to answer the purpose designed by such a formation, viz: that of enlightening the concave or interior surface of the shell.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### The Symmesonian, No. III.

THE reasonings of S. R. in your last, could not fail to convince me of the justice of the course adopted with respect to your Indian neighbours, and the propriety as well as probability of the same course being pursued towards the Symmesonians. I was aware that, in "extinguishing the Indian title" to lands, you always found it expedient to extinguish the Indians also; and expected no other course to be pursued towards us. But however just and proper this might be, we could never be brought to relish it heartily, and I have been endeavouring to de-

rise some plan to avoid it. I could not discover any place to which we could make our escape, except the midplane space, where we might be employed at the blacksmith's business, at the forges of which your volcanoes are the chimnies—but this being not suited to our taste, I have relinquished the idea of it and have since discovered a plan of safety for my country, which I think will prevent the necessity of our emigration.

I observe that the British are fitting out an expedition by sea and another by land, which will undoubtedly penetrate to Symmesonia, and tho' at first I was led to fear them as enemies, I have since discovered the means of making them our friends and protectors.

I have learnt that when these people visit any foreign country, their minds are sure to be out of health and require the discharge of a great deal of ill humour before they can be recovered; this discharge generally commences by cursing the country they are in, for a d—d outlandish place, where nothing can be got fit to eat or drink, and where they have no respect shown them, on account of their being Englishmen. This if checked, as it is very apt to be in this country by the resentment it excites; prevents their restoration to health and (very properly) makes them your irreconcilable enemies. But if it be encouraged by submission and flattery,—if you allow them to boast as much as they please, to tell how they have beaten the French and Spaniards at all times, and every other nation when they pleased,—if in addition to this, you drink the porter they bring with them and declare it the best in the world—if you suffer them to show you how to cook your victuals, and after it is done, agree that it is the best possible mode—if you then acknowledge them to be the richest people in the world and ask to negotiate a loan from them, you will make them your firm friends, and if you wish to carry on a war against any other country they will furnish you with ships, armies, and every thing necessary, and money to pay your expenses, and if you want any thing belonging to any other people, they will rob them in order to give it to you.

I have therefore, only to instruct my countrymen as to the course they are to pursue on the arrival of the British expeditions, and after adopting it, we shall be so far from fearing any thing from this country, that we shall require of you such a course of conduct as we may please to dictate: and by stating it to be necessary to keep up the "balance of power" between the concave and convex surfaces of the globe, and by sending Symmesonian stocks to the British exchange for sale, we can not only get Great Britain, but all Europe to take up arms,

and compel you to allow us whatever we please to demand.

My mind being now relieved from the fears and cares that have oppressed it ever since I left home, I shall spend some time in your country, and make observations respecting such of your manners and customs as I may have opportunities of seeing, and perhaps may communicate some of them to you. I may also want some information, which I trust that you or some of your correspondents will furnish me: in return for which I shall communicate such information respecting the concave as I may think it safe to entrust you with.

#### THE PLAGIARIST, No. II.

Fashion is the only tyrant that gains universal obedience and respect. Its subjects, far from ever making efforts to free themselves from the yoke of servitude, are on the contrary prompt to observe and ready to obey the freaks and whimsies of the vain and foolish. They who are exempted by their elevated condition from the confinement of commercial and professional life, involve themselves in this voluntary slavery; and the wisest of mankind are constrained to yield to the caprices of the times, in order to escape the ridicule which attends a deviation from the rules which folly imposes on the world.

There is no part of the world in which the influence of fashion is not to be traced. It is as manifest at Timbuctoo as at Paris.—It is to be seen alike in forests and crowded cities—in the fashion of the hunters bow, and the furniture of his wigwam, as well as in the endless variety of luxuries of more polished life. The dames of Lapland when issuing from their snow built huts to enjoy the more general intercourse which their brief summer affords, feel the delights of change, in some new mode of wearing the skins in which they are clad, and display them as gladly as those of milder climes hail the appearance of spring fashions.

In civilized life there is nothing which is not affected by fashion. Taste, modes of living, health, and even conscience receives temporary modifications from it. To the works of genius it awards esteem or contempt, and by caprice designates men as great, where nature never intended pre-eminence should exist.

People of fashion form a little world of their own, and look down upon all others as beings of a subordinate nature. It is then a natural question in what does this superiority consist? It arises not from learning, for the most illiterate claim it, and are indulged in the claim. It arises not from virtue, for the most vicious are not excluded.—Wealth, beauty, birth and elegance are not the only qualifications for it, because many enjoy it who have no just pretensions to ei-

ther, and many are excluded who possess them all. It seems to be a combination of numbers who agree to imitate each other, and to maintain by the majority of voices and the effrontery of pride, that all they do is proper, and all they say is sensible; that their dress is becoming, their manners polite, their houses tasteful, and all that appertains to them, the quintessence of real beauty.

Groundless as are the pretensions of this confederacy, no pains are avoided to become an adopted member. For this the stripling squanders his patrimony and destroys his constitution. For this the virgin bloom of innocence and beauty is withered at the vigils of the card table. For this, the loss of integrity, and the certain lot of public infamy are willingly incurred; and it is agreed by many, that it were better to go out of the world, than live in it and be unfashionable.

The modes of fashion occupy time and attention which might be devoted to employments productive of more lasting and substantial gratification. The single article of dress, which, when splendid, requires the labour and attention of many hours, becomes a wretched task to those who wish to employ their time with honour, with improvement, with pleasure, and the possibility of a satisfactory retrospection. All this trouble, changing and expense is willingly incurred by a majority: and the remainder submit without resistance to whatever the milliner and the tailor choose to devise, in order to reap the profits of a change, or to gratify the vanity of brainless ninnies who have no other merits than what fine clothes give them.

The effects of fashion constitute in the moral world very wonderful phenomena. Fashion can transform deformity to beauty, and beauty to deformity. When we view the dresses in a picture gallery, we are tempted to ridicule the shocking taste of our grandfathers and grandmothers; and yet there is not the least doubt, that they appeared beautiful and becoming, when they were worn, and that the garb of the spectator who now censures them would then have been equally ridiculous. During the short period of a life, the fluctuations of taste are strikingly remarkable. The prevailing taste is at the time supposed to be the perfect taste; a few years pass and it is exploded as monstrosities; a new one is adopted; that also is soon despised, and the old one in the capricious vicissitudes of the innovating spirit, is once more revived to complete its revolution.

It must be allowed, indeed, that while fashion exerts her arbitrary power in matters which tend not to the corruption of morals, or of taste in the fine arts, she may be suffered to rule without limitation. But the misfortune is, that like other potentates she will encroach on provinces where her ju-

isdiction is usurped. The variations she is continually introducing in dress are of service in promoting commerce. The whims of the rich feed the poor. The variety and restlessness caused by the changes in the modes of external embellishment, contribute to please and employ those whose wealth and personal insignificance prevent them from finding more manly objects, and more rational entertainment. But when the same caprice that gives law to the wardrobe, extends itself to the library, regulates religion and directs education, it is time that reason should vindicate her rights against the encroachments of folly.

Yet so fascinating is the influence of general example, that many who possess reason in an improved state, are known to follow fashion with blind obedience. The scholar and the philosopher are hurried away in the rapidity of the torrent. To stand singular, is to present a mark for malevolence. For the sake of ease therefore, men are induced to join the throng, which they must resist without success, but not without receiving injury in the conflict. Compliance is thought wisdom where resistance is inefficacious. V.

#### FOR THE LITERARY GAZETTE. THE SHIPWRECK.

THERE is nothing so interesting to a landman, especially a western one like myself, as a voyage to sea. There is a novelty in every thing connected with it: all objects that present themselves are new to him, affording an endless variety, and keeping his curiosity continually on the stretch. The ship, her sails and tackle, the skill and intrepidity of the sailors, and the order and regularity with which they execute their sometimes dangerous duties, are all calculated to strike the mind with astonishment and admiration: At least it had that effect on me the first time I saw a vessel.

I had occasion to take a voyage from a southern port, and embarked in the W—— Capt. S——; we were out some weeks, and after the novelty of being at sea had worn away, we began to wish for a change of scene, and longed to tread once more on *Terra Firma*. To relieve the tedium of a protracted passage, every species of amusement, that could serve to while away the time, was resorted to, and our patience and ingenuity were severely taxed in devising schemes to pass the weary day.—Our tales twice told, our books twice read, and our only pack of cards soiled and worn out, we lounged around the ship, and yawned away the heavy hours as we wished for land, or watched the changing of the breeze that bore us homeward.

The passengers in a vessel soon get intimate; we soon appear as one family, and the ship seems to contain within itself a little

world of its own.—As I leant one fine day over the side of the vessel, and gazed on the water as it foamed and sparkled below, a young gentleman, a fellow passenger, seated himself beside me, and we soon entered into conversation, in the course of which he related the following adventure.

I sailed from —— a short time since, in the ——, Captain ——, a fine ship of 400 tons. The day of my departure was a momentous one to me, and one that I never shall forget; for what can efface from the memory the emotions that are felt, when our country for the first time recedes from the view. I stood on the stern of the vessel, and when the land of my nativity, my birthplace and my home, sunk beneath the distant horizon and disappeared in the waste of waters, I turned and wept. But the tears of youth are soon dried, their spirits elastic and buoyant, soon triumph over the griefs that weigh them down, and quickly regain their former cheerfulness and unconcern. There is much at sea to excite attention. The clumsy gambols of the Porpoise, the silvery scales of the little flying-fish as it raises from the water, and the beauties of the dying Dolphin, are known to all navigators; and I well remember the impression made on my mind, when for the first time I saw the sun and moon rise and set apparently in the ocean.

It is delightful to walk the deck in the silence of midnight: the sparkling track of the vessel through the water, appears as if strewn with diamonds, and the white and shining foam of the waves at the bow, gives the whole scene an air of enchantment. The stately ship pursuing her course thro' the darkness, the faithful helm's-man, and still more faithful compass, are all calculated to astonish by their novelty and interest the yet inexperienced seaman.

The pleasure we enjoyed was of but short duration; we had seen the ocean in its slumber, and were soon doomed to behold it in its most terrific aspect: the wind that had blown steadily and favourable since our departure, now began to shift its course, and the dark and murky appearance of the clouds portended a storm. It commenced raining, and I descended to the cabin. I soon perceived by the increased motion of the vessel, the roaring noise of the waves, and the hurried trampling of the sailors over head, that the storm had already commenced; and unable to endure a situation where the imagination could conjure up a thousand horrors, I ascended again on deck to see the worst, and ascertain the real extent of danger: but I shall never forget the scene that met my view,

"Wave piled on wave seemed climbing to the skies."

The sea was in the wildest commotion, and all the elements appeared to be in conflict. The flapping of the sails, the creaking of

the blocks, the anxious look of the seamen, and the loud and commanding voice of our captain as he issued his orders with rapidity and precision, were all calculated to dismay, and give us a presentiment of our fate. Our ship would mount the high billows, and trembling for a moment on their tops, rush down to the gulph below with a velocity that threatened to bury her in the ocean; but she would again be lifted on high, and again descend into the chasm. The storm increased every moment; but as we had an open sea we still indulged the idea of being able to ride it out. This flattering hope soon vanished; for, to add to our misfortunes, to seal our fate, and render our destruction almost inevitable, the mate who had been below exclaimed "*a leak*:" the cry ran through the vessel and sounded to us like the sentence of death, we found the water pouring in; and all our exertions to stop it, useless. It gained on us with an alarming rapidity; the passengers, and all the spare hands were placed at the pumps; we laboured for our lives, and with a desperate energy that seemed to arrest for a moment the hand of fate: the ship, freed from her burden, appeared to ride the waves with greater ease; and we began to flatter ourselves with a prospect of deliverance; but the gleam of hope was soon overcast, the fore and mizen mast went by the board, and the mainmast, unsupported and tottering, threatened every moment to follow them—we abandoned all labour and turned to the only resource left us: we had two boats, capable of carrying about half the people on board; the mate and some of the sailors launched one, and throwing a few articles of provisions in her, pushed off—we watched them with an anxious eye, but scarcely had they cleared the ship before a mountain wave buried them in the ocean, and gave a sad presage of the destiny that awaited us. The scene on board our vessel at that time defies description; the shriek of fear, the cry of despair, and the stifled groan of those who disdained to weep, made an impression that can never be effaced. You might in one place see the hardened sinner on his knees, imploring the God he never addressed before, and in another, the frantic wife clinging to her husband and vainly soliciting the aid which it was impossible to give: the children, too young to know the danger of their situation, would raise their feeble voice, and hang to the coat of their father—and he, conscious of their fate, would strain them to his bosom and endeavour to hush their fears; and while the tear stained his manly cheek, he would silently supplicate his maker for consolation and protection. The fate of two persons on board excited particular interest; they had been married but a few days before we sailed, and were on their way to the home of their parents; during the whole

storm they kept together and appeared resolved to share the same fate—the bride young and lovely—the husband undaunted and intrepid, regardless of the perils around them, seemed only solicitous for the preservation of each other. The ship was fast filling, and it was obvious that she could not swim many minutes longer: there was still a boat left, and altho' the chance of her living in the angry elements was desperate and almost impossible, yet there was still a chance. Just before we launched it, I turned and warned them to be ready to embark; but I had scarcely spoken before he was swept from the vessel, and carried beyond the reach of assistance; the lady uttered a shriek, and sunk on the deck senseless & inanimate—determined to save her if possible from the approaching wave, I caught her with one hand, and seized a rope for my preservation with the other; but the sea broke over us with an impetuosity that tore her from my grasp, and she shared the fate of her husband. I did not pity her, for the only tie that bound her to earth, had been burst asunder; she had seen the idol of her heart, the object of her affection, the person that had been unto her a husband, lover, and friend, buried in the ocean and lost to her for ever; and she could only have lingered out a few months in hopeless misery and sorrow, and descended at last into the grave, the victim of a broken heart. I was aroused from those reflections by the voice of the captain as he ordered those in the boat to "cast her off," and as the only chance of preservation, I sprang into her; we were fortunate enough to clear the vessel, but had scarcely left her a minute, and while the hollow of the last wave alone separated us, we saw our unfortunate ship and unhappy friends sink into the fathomless ocean; there was but one piercing shriek, but one convulsive struggle, before the water closed over their hopes and fears, and left us the wretched survivors of those who composed, but a few days before, a joyous and numerous company. We kept our boat before the wind, and endured for three days all the extremes of hunger, thirst, and terror, until nature seemed almost ready to yield. But a glimmering of hope at last broke through the dark cloud of despair: we saw the glitter of a white sail in the horizon, and exerted all our remaining strength to reach it: the vessel at one time would appear to bear directly for us, and again she would tack and stretch far to windward, until our hearts died within us;—this state of suspense, this fluctuation of hope and fear, this alternate prospect of deliverance and death, is the most dreadful of all situations. At last, to our unspeakable joy, they seemed to observe us—in a short time they were along side—and we soon stood on their deck with the feelings of men rescued from the grave,—we were treated

with attention and humanity, and landed safely at Charleston.

CHARLEY RAMBLE.

## THE CINCINNATI LITERARY GAZETTE.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1824.

THE very amiable private character of Capt. Symmes; the reputation which he acquired in the army as a brave and active officer, and the exclusive devotion of all his time, talents and property to the propagation of his new doctrines, have excited a degree of attention and sympathy towards him in this city, which, in many instances, induces a belief of the truth of his theory; and that his opinions are treated with undeserved neglect and contempt by the learned, and by our government. Capt. Symmes' arguments are such as require no scientific knowledge for their comprehension; while those principles of science which have long been considered as the most firmly established, are in opposition to them—but are not generally understood, except by men of liberal education. For the purpose of exhibiting the real merit of Capt. Symmes' theory and making the reasons of the neglect of it intelligible to all, Mr. T. J. Matthews has been induced to deliver the lecture of which the publication is commenced in this number. It will be found to contain information sufficiently valuable to the generality of our readers to authorise its publication, even if no extraordinary reason for it existed; and as a literary production it will doubtless be considered creditable to the author.

### THE WESTERN MUSEUM.

THE following communication, signed by our Consul General, and a number of his public spirited countrymen, at *Rio de Janeiro*,—was received by the Managers of the Western Museum Society, several months ago:—accompanied by a letter from Mr. Bedwell, announcing that the four cases of specimens referred to, were then in Philadelphia, and ready to be forwarded, per order, to the West. To obviate any risk of injury by land carriage, Mr. B. was desirous to re-ship them to New-Orleans:—from whence they have been gratuitously conveyed to Cincinnati, through the politeness of Capt. James;—and are now placed in the hands of Mr. Dorfeuille, to be arranged and exhibited with the other collections of the Society.

It was shortly before Mr. Raguet's departure for South America, that, (while on a visit to this place,) he proposed to the managers to bear in mind, during his absence, the interests of the WESTERN MUSEUM,—which was then just rising to import-

ance:—and the result has proved that he has not been unmindful of his promise. It is gratifying to our national pride to find that our fellow citizens in foreign climes, are thus usefully devoting a portion of their leisure hours to the advancement of Science at home:—and it is especially pleasing to us as citizens of the West, to find that our own sylvan region is held in that delightful kind of remembrance which is manifested in positive exertions for our advantage. Every effort, like this, to diffuse throughout our common country a practical knowledge of the various productions of Nature exhibited to our inquisitive countrymen abroad,—should be hailed as the result of patriotism and liberality combined;—as an effort endearing to the bosom of philanthropy,—and strengthening to the ties of our Union.

We have only to add our best wishes for the success of the establishment, in the hands of the enterprising individual to whom it has been confided;—with the hope that its present prosperous situation may induce those who have hitherto withheld the balances due on their shares, to come forward and fulfil their original engagements, and thereby ensure its stability.

Rio de Janeiro, Empire of Brazil,  
March 26, 1823.

To the Managers of the Cincinnati  
WESTERN MUSEUM.

GENTLEMEN:—

The citizens of the United States of America at present in this port, impressed with a due sense of the gratification which may be imparted to their countrymen, by the transmission, to the different cities of their common country, of such objects of natural history as are peculiar to this part of the world;—and aware that the Museums which are located in the sea-port towns, from the access every day presented to masters of vessels, and others who visit foreign climes, have opportunities of increasing their collections, which are not enjoyed by those of the interior;—take this occasion to testify their remembrance of the *Western Country* of their native land, from which they are distant six thousand miles, by presenting the Museum of Cincinnati, in the State of Ohio, a small collection of insects and other articles, (many of which have been taken with their own hands,) in the hope that this humble endeavour to gratify the curiosity of their Western brethren, may be imitated by those who are similarly situated, and who can at a trifling expense, and with a very little labour,—in the various parts of the globe frequented by American Commerce,—draw from the rich sources of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, those treasures of nature, which can promote the enjoyment of their fellow citizens,—if not advance the interests of their country.

Mr. George W. Bedwell of Philadelphia, a passenger on board the ship *Pennsylvania*, bound to that port, who has been diligent and active in his exertions as one of the contributors towards this undertaking,—has politely offered to take charge of the collection, to arrange them on board, and, on his arrival, to transmit them by an early opportunity to the place of their destination.

In the hopes that this small present may be acceptable to the laudable Institution, of which you are entrusted with the management,—and that the Museum may increase with the prosperity of the country which claims it

We subscribe ourselves,

Very respectfully,  
Your Countrymen.

Condé Raguet, of Pennsylvania.  
J. L. Dabney, of Massachusetts.  
J. Birkhead, of Baltimore.  
George Read, of Pennsylvania.  
Alfred McEvers, of New York.  
Benj. F. Buel, of Kentucky.  
Thos. A. Boyd, East Greenwich, R. I.  
David Carter, of Massachusetts.  
Christopher H. Cooksey, Virginia.  
A Friend, from Rhode Island.  
A Philadelphian, (presumed to be Mr. Bedwell.)  
Archibald McCliesh, of Baltimore.  
Charles W. Gelston, Hudson Sr. N. Y.  
Constantine Smith, citizen of the United States.

**LITERARY CORRECTION.**—As we have already had occasion to regret the unfinished state in which many of the contributors to the *Literary Gazette*, have sent in their communications, we beg leave to call their attention to the following paragraph from one of Lady Hervey's letters. If such authors as Middleton, Pope and others availed themselves of the criticisms and corrections of their literary friends, we hope that it may not be deemed condescension, by our correspondents, to imitate the example. Those who consider the style of composition of little importance, are quite mistaken as to that which constitutes excellence in writing. They who hope to have the productions of their pens admired, must not shrink from the labour of correction. They should recollect that without the polishing hand of the lapidary, the diamond would display but little brilliancy.

It is very desirable that our columns should exhibit chaste specimens of composition; and we wish it to be distinctly understood by those who favor us with their lucubrations, that we have neither the time nor taste for revising their manuscripts.

May it not be reasonably concluded, that Horace and Virgil themselves submitted to, even sought for, corrections, at least verbal ones, from Mæcenas, or even Augustus him-

self? Why not, when I know that Dr. Middleton's Cicero, which still wants so much polishing of that kind, had many low words and collegiate phrases blotted out of it by lord Hervey; that lord Bolingbroke's criticisms improved Mr. Pope's performances, and that lord Halifax did not only patronize the poets, but correct their poetry.'

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC NOTICES.

It affords us high pleasure to be able to announce, that an original work, in the Latin language, illustrated with English notes, is in a state of considerable forwardness, and will, most probably, be put to press early in the course of the ensuing summer.

The work is intended for Colleges, Seminaries, and classic gentlemen, throughout the United States. The subject is a biographical notice of the great Washington, "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

That such a work, embracing the narration of events of recent occurrence, if ably executed, and clothed in correct latinity, would arrest the attention of the juvenile student, and more especially interest the American reader, will be conceded by all. The author of it is Francis Glass, A. M. of Dayton, Ohio, a gentleman, who, to very general information, unites a most consummate and critical acquaintance with every part of classical literature. A considerable portion of the work is now written, and has, in part, been submitted to the faculty of the Ohio University, located at Athens, and to that of the Cincinnati College. The enlightened Professors of both those institutions, after a careful examination of the specimen submitted for their examination, unanimously concurred in pronouncing it a work of very uncommon merit, and as being justly entitled to the highest patronage. It is expected, the work, when completed, will embrace upwards of three hundred pages, a great proportion of which will be original; as it is intended, that the notes appended to the work, will embrace much matter which has never yet appeared in any work whatever.

All editors of papers, and other literary and periodical publications, throughout the United States, friendly to the cause of letters, and the encouragement of American genius, will essentially, subserve the interest of both, by giving this notice an insertion in their respective papers.

Wilmington (O.) Spec.

Professor Griscom, of New York, has issued proposals for a new periodical publication, to be entitled "*The Mechanics' and Manufacturers' Magazine*," to be published monthly, and to be devoted to the Arts and Trades of the United States. This work is intended to fill a department in literature

which has not hitherto been occupied by any other person in this country. We know of no person better qualified for executing the task he has undertaken than Mr. Griscom. As a man of science, particularly in mechanical philosophy and chemistry, his attainments are very respectable; as a writer, his style is clear, chaste, and handsome; and from his extensive acquaintance and correspondence in Europe, as well as in the United States, he possesses advantages for the collection of suitable matter for his work, which few persons enjoy. That such a publication will be useful and advantageous generally, and particularly to those for whose immediate benefit it is intended, cannot be doubted.

N. Y. Daily Adv.

We have received the 2d and 3d numbers of the *Ladies Garland*, a weekly literary paper published at Harper's Ferry, Va. It is printed in a very handsome manner; and the matter, which is principally selections, displays much taste and judgment in the editor.

M. Angelo Mai, Prefect of the Vatican library at Rome, has just published a second edition of the fragments of the works of Frontonius; these he had originally discovered in the Ambrosian library of Milan, but he has now considerably augmented them, by fresh discoveries made in the treasures of the Vatican. Among these augmentations are more than an hundred letters of Marcus Aurelius, Frontonius and others.

The following works are announced in Great Britain.

**RAMESES** an Egyptian tale, with historical notes of the era of the Pharaohs, in 3 vols. Its object is the illustration of Egyptian Antiquities and of a great epoch in its history.

A history of the origin and progress of the Greek Revolution, by E. Blaquiére, Esq.

The second volume of the '*Lady of the Manor*,' by Mrs. Sherwood author of the '*Willoughby Family*,' and memoirs of '*Margaret Whyte*.'

Rose Grant, or a Matlock sketch; a whisper to a new married pair from a widowed wife.

The Miscellaneous works of Bishop Burnet, in two series of 7 vols. each.

Essays and Sketches of Character. By the late Richard Ayton, Esq. with a memoir of his life, and a portrait.

A compendious view of the darker ages, with genealogical tables. By C. Chatfield. In one vol. 8vo.

The Agamemnon of Æschylus, translated with notes critical and explanatory. By John Symmons, A. M. of Christ Church, Oxford.

The Animal Kingdom, as arranged conformably with its organization. By the Baron Cuvier; with additional descriptions

of all the species hitherto named, and of many not before noticed. To be published quarterly; the first number to commence the 1st of February, 1824.

Elements of the history of Civil Government; being a view of the rise and progress of the various political institutions that have subsisted throughout the World, and an account of the present state and distinguishing features of the governments now in existence. By the late James Tyson, Esq. Part 1. 8vo.

The Counsels of Wisdom: consisting of the letters of eminent men, addressed to their children, on the conduct of life; with brief memoirs of the writers.

Appendix of Natural History, &c. to Captain Parry's voyage of discovery, with plates, 4to. is also in the press.

The Medical Society of New-York has offered a premium of \$50 for the best dissertation on the History, Causes, and Treatment of the Hooping-Cough; and \$50 for the best dissertation on the Remote and Existing Causes of Phthisis Pulmonalis.

Salt Mines in France.—M. Chaptal, in the name of a committee lately made a report to the Academy of Sciences in Paris, on the rock salt of a mine discovered in May, 1820, at Vic, in the department of the Meurthe. There are four sorts, white, half white, gray, and red. The whole is perfectly pure and peculiarly fit for the table. The half white and the gray contain some extraneous substances, but in less quantity than sea salt, so that they may be used without danger. Even the red may be used without inconvenience, being purer than common salt. A valuable quality of the mineral salt of Vic is, that it is not deliquescent, or that it does not attract the humidity of the atmosphere, which gives the consumer an advantage of 10 per cent. In short, the use of the salt of Vic in the arts and agriculture will be very advantageous. The mine occupies an extent of above 30 square leagues, and its thickness is such that it may be worked for several thousand years without being exhausted.

## SUMMARY.

Disastrous Intelligence from Peru.—The whaling ship Frederick Augustus has arrived at Newport from Coquimbo, whence she sailed on the 14th Nov.—Bringing a month later than our former advices. A letter received by this arrival, dated Valparaiso, October 30, communicates the important, though disagreeable intelligence, that by an arrival from Arica, they had just learnt the defeat and dispersion of the patriot army under Gen. Santa Cruz, seven thousand strong, with the loss of 4000—all their baggage, arms, ammunition and stores of every kind, at the Disaquadero—by the

Vice Roy and Gen. Valdez, whose forces were five thousand strong. This news seems not to have been known at Coquimbo.

Mexico Jan. 7.—The English Commissioners, three in number, Harvey, Ward and O'Gorman, with a Consul General, and Consuls for Vera Cruz and Apaculpo, are in the city. The second leaves here in a few days for England, and takes with him such a favourable account of the situation of affairs here, that there is no doubt the independence will be acknowledged by Great Britain, and that she will prevent the other European powers from meddling with us. They are delighted with Mexico and the reception they met with. All they asked was the abolition of the slave trade, which has already been done away—no commercial privileges or interference in the form of government: leaving the people of this country at liberty to adopt what they think most conducive to their welfare and prosperity.

Maine.—The Legislature of the state of Maine has adjourned, says the National Intelligencer after doing itself imperishable honour by "abolishing Imprisonment for Debt"—that barbarous relic of the early Roman Law.

Thompson's Island.—The United States sloop Florida, Lieut. Comdt. Gedney, which arrived at Savannah on the 19th ult. brings intelligence that Thompson's Island continued in a very unhealthy state. Of 80 individuals on the island, 50 were left sick, with the ague and fever. No intelligence had been received of recent piracies, at the time the Florida sailed. The following U. S. vessels were left at Thompson's Island. brig Porpoise, Lieut. Ramage; schr. Terrier, Lieut. McIntosh; schr. Greyhound, Lieut. Farragut; schr. Wild Cat, Lieut. Wolbert. Lieut. Rosseau, was in command at Thompson's Island.

Rail way.—A proposal has been made by some gentlemen in Boston, to form a rail way from Worcester to Boston, for the purpose of supplying the latter place with coal, from the bed of that mineral lately discovered in Worcester.

Of Gold.—The mines of Europe produce, in sterling, only 185,020l.; Northern Asia, 76,770l.; America the rest of the total of 2,467,260l. in the following proportions:—New Spain, 229,630l.; New Granada, 672,500l.; Peru, 111,530l.; Potosi, and Provinces east of Buenos Ayres, 72,180l.; Chili, 400,550l.; and Brazil, 980,870l. Of silver, the total amount of which is 7,319,670l.; Europe produces 484,580l., and Northern Asia 199,730l. America furnishes the rest; as New Spain, 4,495,340l.; Peru, 1,392,440l. Potosi, &c. 1,010,070l.; and Chili, 62,820l.

The canal to unite the waters of the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, is already contracted for, and a number of hands are now employed in clearing the ground.

Salt can be manufactured at the Onondagua springs (N. Y.) and vended on the shores of the Hudson, and at New-York, at so low a rate as entirely to exclude Liverpool salt from the market, with profit to the manufacturer.

Royal Frugality.—In a late English paper, a statement is given of all the moneys voted by Parliament to his present Majesty, since he came to "years of discretion;" by which it appears that this bantling of legitimacy, since he numbered 24 years has received the enormous sum of five millions five hundred and fifteen thousand pounds sterling from the treasury of his dutiful subjects.

## A CARD.

CAPT. SYMMES gives notice that he intends to reply to Mr. Matthews' lecture, as soon as practicable after the whole is published. He gives Mr. M. credit for much ingenuity in his support of the old theory: and for sufficient candour in illustrating the supposed errors of the new;—tho' on a few occasions, he appears to have misconceived the views exhibited in Capt. Symmes' lectures.

THE Rev. Daniel Parker, will preach at the Court House tomorrow at 11 o'clock A. M. and at 3 P. M.

Western Museum.—This Evening Mr. DORFEVILLE will deliver a lecture on the 4th order of Birds, COLUMBINE, or Pigeons and Doves. (This lecture is repeated by request.)

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SEVERAL communications have been received which are under consideration. The prominent fault of most of them is carelessness.

The verses of "A Citizen," are too exclusively political for our columns.

## NEW WORKS.

Just received at the Philomathic Athenæum and Circulating Library:—

Franklin's Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea,  
Griscom's Year in Europe,  
Thatcher's Military Journal during the Revolutionary War,

Las Cases' Journal, complete in 8 vols.

St. Ronan's Well, (two copies,)

The Pilot, do.

High-ways and By-ways, or Tales by the Road-side,

Memoirs of the Court of Elizabeth, by Miss Aikin,

The current numbers of the Edinburgh, Quarterly, and North American Reviews,  
—Silliman's Journal,—The Port Folio,—and the Museum.

Subscriptions received by the Librarian, at the Western Museum. Occasional readers may have access to the Library on moderate terms.

## POETRY.

FOR THE LITERARY GAZETTE.  
A NEW SONG AND AIR.

Will you mix in the Dance?  
For the beaming of pleasure  
And beauty's bright glance  
Shall enliven the measure;  
And Fairy forms passing  
Like Angels before you,  
Reflecting and casting  
Their sweet magio o'er you,  
'Till your senses eurtap by the radiant light  
That is shed on the gay scene around you to night,  
Shall awake from their trance; while to seas of  
delight  
On the pinions of fancy they've bore you.

Will you mix in the dance?  
For the young and the witty  
Our pleasures enhance;  
And the Belles of our city  
Have met to unite  
With their friends, and their lovers,  
To chase off the night,  
That with sable wing hovers  
O'er nature all hushed into calmness and sleep;  
For none are awake now but poets, that keep  
Their late vigils at midnight, and lovers that weep  
When time their illusion discovers.

Will you mix in the dance?  
If you will, come and join us,  
For pleasure's advance  
Should be met without coyness;  
Then hasten, for this  
Is the season of leisure;  
Taste the pleasures of bliss,  
And the sweet bliss of pleasure;  
For our time is fast flitting, to-morrow may never  
Revisit us here, or a few hours sever  
The ties that have bound us: then hasten, if ever  
You wish to partake of its treasure.

Will you mix in the dance?  
For the moments are flying,  
Arouse from your trance,  
It is time you were trying  
The pleasures and joys  
That make life worth possessing:  
Delay but destroys  
And embitters each blessing;  
Then haste to the ball, and embrace now the  
chance  
That shall bring you in contact with beauty's  
bright glance,  
Won't you join in the Dance? Won't you join in  
the Dance?  
And take from enjoyment a lesson.

CHARLEY RAMBLE.

SELECTED.

## THE RAINBOW.

The evening was glorious; and light through the  
trees,  
Play'd the sunshine and rain-drops, the birds and  
the breeze;  
The landscape out-stretching, in loveliness lay,  
On the lap of the year, in the beauty of May.

For the Queen of the Spring, as she pass'd down  
the vale,  
Left her robe on the trees, and her breath on the  
gale;  
And the smile of her promise, gave joy to the hours,  
And rank, in her footsteps, sprang herbage and  
flowers.

The skies, like a banner in sunset unroll'd  
O'er the west, threw the splendor of azure and gold;  
But one cloud, at a distance, rose dense and in-  
creased,  
Till its margin of black touch'd the zenith and east.

We gazed on the scenes, while around us they  
glow'd;  
When a vision of beauty appear'd on the cloud;  
'Twas not like the sun, as at mid-day we view,  
Nor the moon that rolls nightly, thro' star-light  
and blue.

Like a spirit it came, in the van of the storm,  
And the eye and the heart hail'd its beautiful form;  
For it look'd not severe, like an angel of wrath;  
And its garment of brightness illum'd its dark path.

In the hues of its grandeur, sublimely it stood,  
O'er the river, the village, the fields and the wood;  
And river, fields, village, and woodlands grew  
bright,  
As conscious they felt and afforded delight.

'Twas the Bow of Omnipotence, bent in His hand,  
Whose grasp at creation the universe spann'd:  
'Twas the presence of God, in a symbol sublime,  
His vow, from the flood, to the exit of time.

Not dreadful as when, in the whirlwind, he pleads,  
When storms are his chariots, and lightning his  
steeds;  
The black clouds, his banners of vengeance un-  
fur'd,

And thunder, his voice, to a guilt stricken world:  
In the breath of his presence, when thousands ex-  
pire,  
And seas boil with fury, and rocks burn with fire;  
And the sword, and the plague spot, with death  
strew the plain,  
And vultures and wolves are the graves of the  
slain.

Not such was that Rainbow, that beautiful one!  
Whose arch was refraction, its key-stone the sun;  
A pavilion it seem'd which the Deity grac'd,  
And Justice and Mercy met there and embrac'd.

Awhile—and it sweetly bent over the gloom,  
Like Love o'er a death-couch, or Hope o'er the  
tomb;

Then left the dark scene, whence it slowly retir'd  
As Love had just vanish'd, and Hope had expir'd.

I gazed not alone, on that source of my song;  
To all who beheld it, these verses belong;  
Its presence to all, was the path of the Lord:  
Each full heart expanded, grew warm, and ador'd.

Like a visit, the converse of friends, and a day;  
That bow from my sight, pass'd for ever away:  
Like that visit, that converse, that day, on my  
heart,  
That bow, from remembrance, can never depart.

'Tis a picture in memory, distinctly defin'd,  
With the strong and unperishing colours of mind;  
A part of my being, beyond my control,  
Beheld on that cloud, and transcribed on my soul.

## A FAREWELL TO SCOTLAND.

By Mr. Pringle.

Our native land—our native vale,—  
A long and last adieu;—  
Farewell to bonny Teviot dale,  
And Cheviot mountains blue!

Farewell, ye hills of glorious deeds,  
And streams renown'd in song:  
Farewell, ye blithsome braes and meads,  
Our hearts have loved so long.

Farewell, ye broomy elfin knowes  
Where thyme and harebells grow;  
Farewell, ye hoary haunted howes  
O'erhung with birk and sloe.

The battle mound—the border tower  
That Scotia's annals tell:—  
The martyr's grave—the lover's bower,  
To each—to all—farewell!

Home of our hearts!—our father's home—  
Land of the brave and free!  
The sail is flapping on the foam  
That bears us far from thee!

We seek a wild and distant shore  
Beyond the Atlantic main;  
We leave thee to return no more,  
Nor view thy cliffs again!

But may dishonor blight our fame,  
And quench our household fires,  
When we, or ours, forget thy name,  
Green Island of our sires.

Our native land—our native vale,—  
A long, a last adieu;—  
Farewell to bonny Teviot dale,  
And Scotland's mountains blue.

ALL live and move to the poetic eye—  
The winds have voices, and the stars of night  
Are spirits thron'd in brightness, keeping watch  
O'er earth and its inhabitants; the clouds,  
That gird the sun with glory, are a train,  
In panoply of gold around him set,  
To guard his morning and his evening throne.  
The elements are instruments, employ'd  
By unseen hands, to work their sovereign will.  
They do their bidding—when the storm goes forth,  
'Tis but the thunderer's car, whereon he rides,  
Aloft in triumph, o'er our prostrate heads.  
Its roar is but the rumbling of his wheels,  
Its flashes are his arrows, and the folds,  
That curl and heave upon the warring winds,  
The dust, that falls beneath his coursers' feet.

PERCIVAL.

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